IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor :	Mu Li	
Appln. No.:	10/662,502	Group Art Unit: 2626
Filed :	September 15, 2003	
For :	UNSUPERVISED TRAINING FOR OVERLAPPING AMBIGUITY RESOLUTION FOR CHINESE WORD SEGMENTATION	Examiner: Serrou, Abdelali
Docket No.:	M61.12-0527	

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL

Filed Electronically March 9, 2009

Sir:

This is responsive to an Office Action mailed on December 8, 2008. The Office Action rejected claims 1-12 and 14-31. The application currently includes claims 1-12 and 14-31. No amendments have been made in this response.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 14 and 25, as well as their dependent claims are allowable over the cited prior art. Each of the independent claims relates to utilizing at least one context feature comprising a Chinese character to determine probability information for each of two possible segmentations. There simply is no teaching or suggestion that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the Chen reference with the Brockett reference.

The Chen reference explicitly discloses utilizing **either** a forward/backward matching segmenter **or** a statistical stack search segmenter. Each of these methods are exclusive from each other in the Chen patent.

Utilizing the forward/backward matching method, word boundaries are located by forming the longest words which exist in the lexicon (i.e., the longest allowable word), in both forward and backward manners. A statistical language model is utilized then to make a decision when there is any output discrepancies between the forward and backward matching. Applicant